

Appn. No.: 10/042,614
Amendment Dated August 1, 2006
Reply to Office Action of February 2, 2006

93982-00018

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and
listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Cancelled)
17. (Cancelled)
18. (Cancelled)
19. (Cancelled)
20. (Cancelled)
21. (Cancelled)
22. (Cancelled)
23. (Cancelled)
24. (Cancelled)
25. (Cancelled)
26. (Cancelled)
27. (Cancelled)
28. (Cancelled)
29. (Cancelled)

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30. (Cancelled)

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently amended) A method for assessing a compound's ability to specifically inhibit JNK kinase activity in a mammal susceptible to or having a neurological condition, comprising:

(a) incubating said compound in the presence of about 0.5 µg to about 2 µg of purified JNK and about 1 µg to about 3 µg of a JNK substrate, under conditions sufficient for kinase activity;

(b) determining the presence or amount of a phosphorylated JNK substrate, wherein a decrease in the presence or amount of the phosphorylated JNK substrate, when compared to incubating JNK with the JNK substrate absent the compound, is indicative of the compound's ability to inhibit the kinase activity of JNK;

(c) administering to an animal said compound under conditions sufficient to allow for proper pharmacodynamic absorption and distribution thereof in the animal;

(d) harvesting a neuronal tissue sample from the animal and

(e) determining apoptosis in the tissue sample;

(f) correlating the results of steps (b) and (e) wherein a decrease in apoptosis in the neuronal tissue sample, when compared to apoptosis in a neuronal tissue sample from an animal not administered the compound, as determined in step (e), and a decrease in the presence or amount of the phosphorylated JNK substrate, when compared to incubating JNK with the JNK substrate absent the compound, as determined in step (b), taken together, correlate to is indicative of the compound's ability to specifically inhibit JNK kinase activity in a mammal susceptible to or having a neurological condition.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein JNK is JNK1, JNK2 or JNK3, or combinations thereof.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Cancelled)

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43. (Cancelled)
44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein apoptosis in step (e) is determined using a TUNEL assay.
45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein apoptosis in step (e) is determined by administration of γ -³²P-ATP to the animal and detecting the amount of phosphorylated c-Jun in the neuronal tissue sample.
46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein apoptosis in step (e) is determined by Hoechst 33342 staining.
47. (Currently amended) The method of claim 33, wherein the JNK substrate of step a) (a) includes c-Jun and a phosphate donor.